United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER

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Compiled in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and is available on request.
Robert J. Battaglia, Director

December 21, 2010 - Vol. 10, No. 24

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This Farm Reporter contains the results from the following surveys. Thanks for your help!

Milk Production Report
Monthly Dairy Products Report
Crop Progress Report

November Milk Production

In November 2010, Wisconsin milk production rose less than 1 percent to 2.06 billion pounds. Milk per cow averaged 1,630 pounds, the same as last year. There were 1.27 million milk cows in the state during November. This was 1,000 more than the previous month and 7,000 more than last November. As of December 1, 2010, Wisconsin had 12,467 licensed milk cow herds, down 35 from the previous month and down 463 from last December.

Total milk production in the 23 major states was 14.4 billion pounds in December. This was an increase of 3 percent from the previous year. Production per cow rose to 1,722 pounds, 41 pounds more than last November. The number of milk cows in the major states totaled 8.37 million head, up 57,000 from this time last year, but unchanged from last month.

Eighteen states had higher milk production when compared with last November, and five states had lower production. Idaho had a 7 percent increase in production, while New York had a 5 percent gain in production. Minnesota, on the other hand, had a 2 percent decrease in production

November Milk Production

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Production % chnge 2010/09
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
WI	1,258	1,265	1,630	1,630	2,051	2,062	+1
CA	1,765	1,750	1,775	1,870	3,133	3,273	+4
ID	548	572	1,790	1,840	981	1,052	+7
MI	354	360	1,805	1,830	639	659	+3
MN	469	470	1,545	1,520	725	714	-2
NM	317	319	1,970	1,995	624	636	+2
NY	611	611	1,605	1,680	981	1,026	+5
PA	538	541	1,560	1,600	839	866	+3
TX	413	415	1,710	1,750	706	726	+3
23-state total	8,314	8,371	1,681	1,722	13,979	14,411	+3

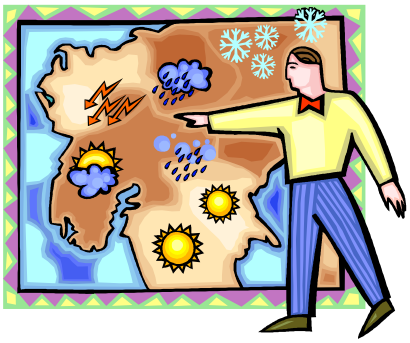
1/Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

Dairy Products, Production by Selected States and U. S.

Item and area	October 2009	September 2010	October 2010	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
CHEESE				
American	349,403	353,837	363,666	+4
Cheddar				
WI	55,528	50,851	52,300	-6
CA	29,778	23,703	27,172	-9
ID	47,992	45,473	46,439	-3
MN	42,480	40,026	39,832	-6
US	263,443	258,581	274,146	+4
Brick & Muenster	11,380	10,189	10,538	-7
Cream & Neufchatel	77,003	73,988	75,805	-2
Hispanic	17,249	18,857	16,810	-3
Mozzarella				
WI	70,782	74,294	73,200	+3
CA	96,965	108,802	107,504	+11
US	278,106	291,023	291,769	+5
Parmesan	18,164	14,667	15,268	-16
Provolone	31,662	29,423	28,838	-9
Ricotta	22,178	24,263	25,449	+15
Romano	3,737	1,923	3,144	-16
Other Italian types	4,007	4,575	4,536	+13
Total Italian				
WI	103,165	105,777	106,025	+3
CA	107,845	118,717	116,515	+8
US	357,854	365,874	369,004	+3
Swiss	26,847	28,142	29,940	+12
All other cheese	23,049	27,745	26,862	+17
Total cheese				
WI	224,904	222,775	225,003	n.c.
CA	175,056	185,973	182,708	+4
ID	70,939	72,361	72,667	+2
NY	66,992	64,952	65,452	-2
US	862,785	878,632	892,625	+3

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

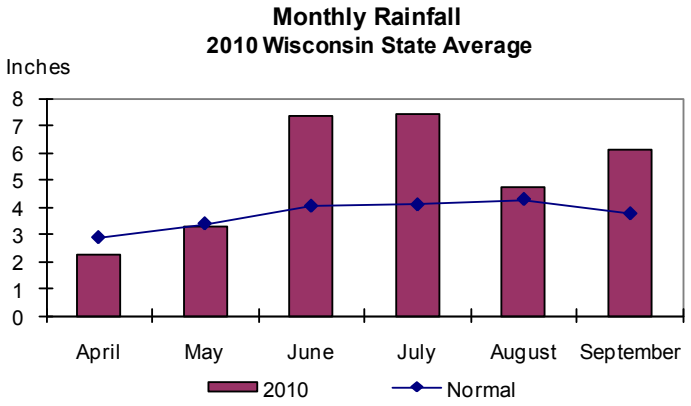
2010 – An Early Start and Ideal Harvest Conditions

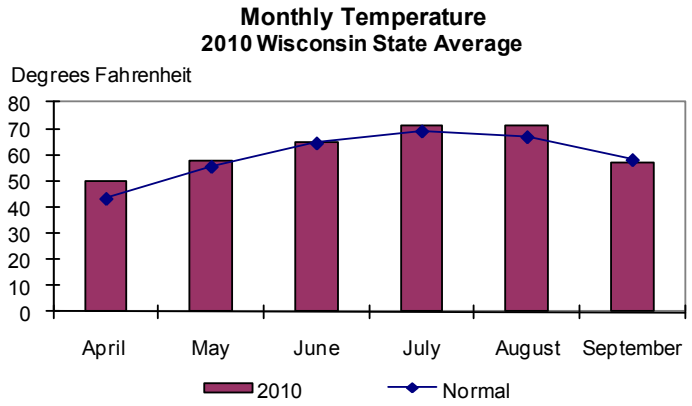


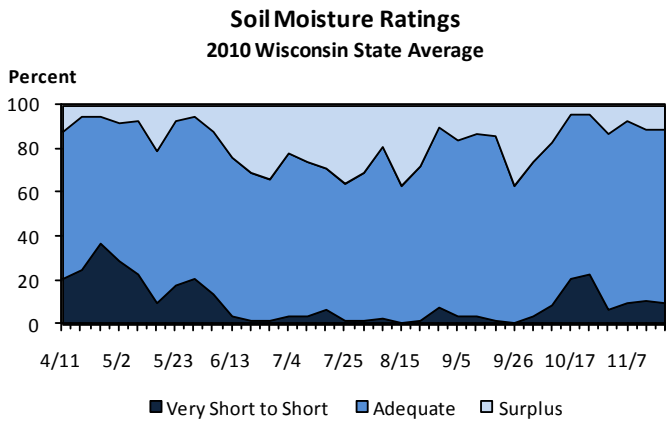
The 2010 growing season started early with above average temperatures in April. The warm start aided spring planting and other fieldwork. The month of May began slightly colder than normal and brought frost and snow to the northern and west central parts of the state over Mother's Day weekend. Although planting and fieldwork continued, the cold temperatures hampered crop emergence and was detrimental to much of the fruit crop. June and July brought average temperatures and heavy rainfall which left many farmers with flooded fields. Crops growing on lighter, higher soils looked excellent, while crops growing on heavier, lower soils were lodged and uneven due to the stress of excess moisture. August brought above average temperatures and rainfall leaving the soil highly saturated across the state. Soil moisture conditions were rated at 99 percent adequate to surplus by August 15. Storms in mid-August brought flooding to the northeast part of the state and wind damage to various parts of the state. Colder temperatures and rainfall in September slowed harvest, but October brought multiple weeks of dry, sunny weather which allowed much of the state to wrap up harvest by the end of the month.

Statewide temperatures from June to September were 1.6 degrees above normal in 2010, reversing the trend from 2009. April through August had above normal temperatures with April averaging 6.6 degrees above normal. September averaged 1.0 degree below normal.

Precipitation and soil moisture varied greatly across the state with total precipitation for April through September at 31.05 inches. This was 13.93 inches above the total for 2009 and 8.72 inches above normal. Total precipitation in the northern third of the state was 7.22 inches above normal for April through September, the central third of the state was 9.62 inches above normal, and the southern third of the state was 9.05 inches above normal precipitation. Statewide, April and May were slightly below normal for total precipitation, but June through September were above normal.





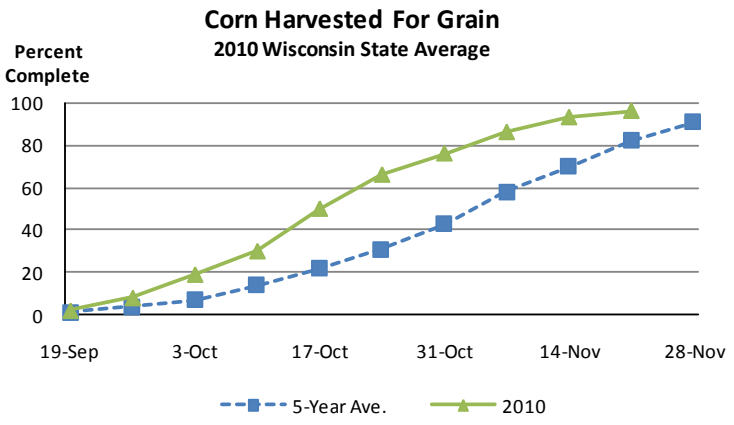


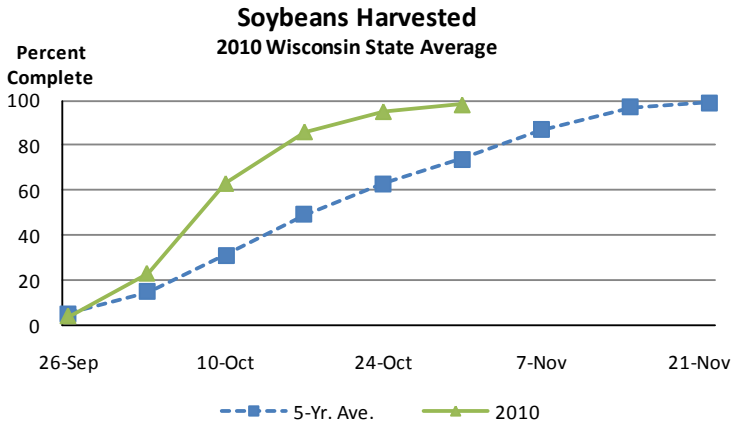
Corn

Corn planting was in full swing by the end of April, and by May 30, corn planting was reported at 96 percent complete with emergence at 75 percent. The warmer temperatures throughout the beginning of June aided progress, but moisture was still needed. By the end of June, a high number of growing degree days and abundant rainfall aided corn development. The above normal rainfall throughout June and July leached some of the nitrogen out of the soil and left some fields short and uneven. The harvest of corn for silage began for some growers by the end of August, well ahead of last year and the five-year average. Corn harvested for grain was well underway by the end of September, ahead of the five-year average, and harvest remained ahead for the rest of the season. October brought multiple weeks of dry weather which allowed harvest to progress rapidly. By October 31, corn harvested for grain was 76 percent complete, 64 percentage points above 2009 and 33 percentage points above the five-year average. Corn harvest continued in November, however, storage space at local elevators was an issue. Many elevators built temporary storage facilities to hold the crop. November wrapped up corn harvest for many with reports of average to excellent yields.

Soybeans

Soybean planting got underway early due to above average temperatures in April. By May 2, soybeans planted were 8 percent complete, 5 percentage points above the five-year average. Soybean planting remained above the average throughout May; however, the May frost resulted in some fields being replanted. Overall, emergence progressed well through June, but the abundant moisture also aided the growth of weeds. Soybean fields were reported as extremely weedy throughout July as the heavy rainfall continued to limit growers from making herbicide applications. Low-lying areas were heavily stressed by the end of July from standing water in soybean fields. By the end of August, white mold and some spotty outbreaks of sudden death syndrome appeared in soybean fields around the state. Despite this, overall, soybeans were looking good. Excellent harvesting conditions in October helped growers harvest soybeans at a record pace. By October 24, 95 percent of the crop was reported harvested, 32 percentage points above the five-year average. Good to excellent yields were reported across the state.





COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

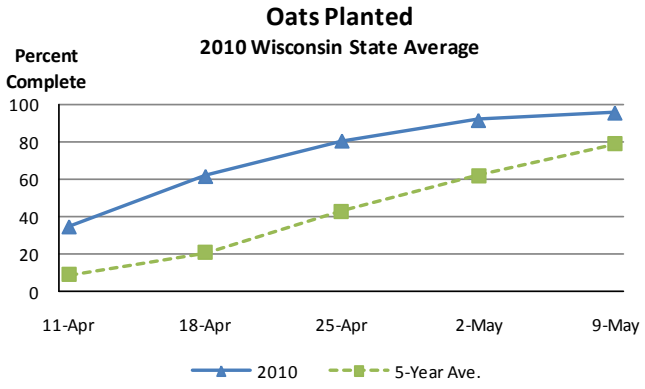
District	Average Temperature, June - September						Total Precipitation, April - September					
	Normal*	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 1/	Normal*	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 1/
	Degrees Fahrenheit						Inches					
NW	63.4	64.6	65.0	63.5	63.0	64.8	22.49	15.91	18.55	20.98	12.67	29.17
NC	61.9	63.3	64.1	62.4	60.4	63.2	22.17	18.60	17.17	18.32	15.78	31.90
NE	62.6	63.5	64.9	63.3	61.7	64.2	20.88	20.84	14.58	18.29	15.85	26.14
WC	66.2	66.9	67.8	66.3	64.8	67.9	23.79	21.61	25.48	24.07	19.31	34.30
C	65.7	66.1	67.0	65.7	64.6	67.3	22.49	19.77	21.83	24.80	17.55	33.08
EC	65.3	66.1	66.9	65.8	64.1	66.9	19.93	18.46	16.81	21.68	16.73	27.70
SW	67.0	67.3	68.3	67.1	65.7	69.0	23.71	25.62	33.39	31.41	20.49	36.13
SC	67.0	67.4	68.6	67.5	65.8	69.2	22.88	26.62	28.78	30.47	21.64	31.57
SE	67.0	67.3	68.2	67.1	64.9	68.8	21.89	22.90	24.99	27.52	19.92	27.93
STATE	64.7	65.4	66.3	64.9	63.4	66.2	22.33	20.46	21.58	23.19	17.12	31.05

1/Preliminary estimates, 2010. *Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

Small Grains

Warmer spring temperatures allowed planting of oats to get underway early, and by April 18, growers reported 62 percent of oats were planted, 26 percentage points above the five-year average. By May 9, planting was 96 percent complete with 72 percent emerged. This was above 2009's average of 87 percent complete and 55 percent emerged. By June 6, oat condition was reported as 87 percent Good to Excellent. The heavy rain in June and July allowed for abundant weed growth and caused lodging in some oat fields. Oat harvest began earlier than normal with 13 percent reported harvested across the state by July 18, 8 percentage points above the five-year average. Wet fields throughout August caused some difficulty for harvest and by August 29 oat harvest fell below the five-year average. Oats harvested for grain wrapped up by the beginning of September.

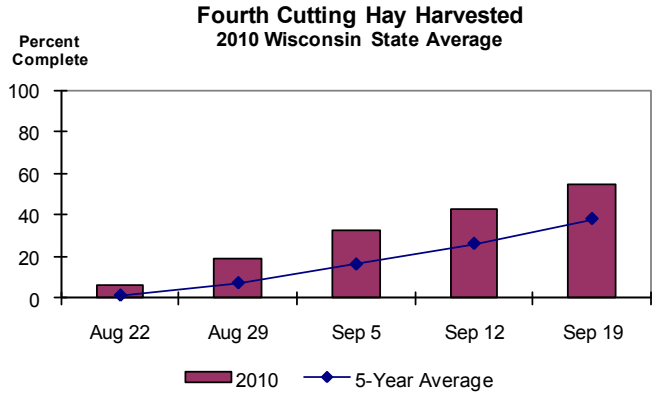
Winter wheat was reported as having minimal damage coming out of winter, and the warmer temperatures throughout April aided growth. By May, dry soils were slowing the growth of winter wheat, but conditions continued to be reported as good to excellent. The abundant moisture in June caused some lodging in wheat fields, and armyworm was reported to be found in a few areas. Harvest of wheat began in early July, but was slowed due to the rainfall. By August, reports indicated that winter wheat harvest had neared completion statewide, with comments indicating yields ranged from below average to excellent.



Hay & Pastures

Alfalfa stands in Wisconsin came out of winter in excellent shape as winter freeze damage to alfalfa was reported as 97 percent none to light. Warmer spring temperatures came early in 2010, allowing hay harvest to get off to an early start. By the end of May, first cutting hay was 40 percent complete, well above the 5-year average of 17 percent. Wet weather during mid-June slowed down progress of first cutting hay, and by June 20 first cutting hay harvest was equal to the five-year average at 78 percent complete. These rains did benefit re-growth of second crop, and yields of second cutting hay were often reported as good to excellent. However, growers were forced to cut between rainstorms and had trouble making dry hay. Despite the constant rain, completion rates for second and third cuttings were close to their five-year averages. Fourth cutting hay was consistently ahead of the five-year average, and was reported as 94 percent complete as of October 24.

Pastures were productive throughout much of the season. Pasture conditions continually improved each week from 67 percent rated Good to Excellent as of May 30, to 89 percent Good to Excellent as of July 11. Conditions remained above 80 percent Good to Excellent throughout July and August.



WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER (USPS 398-970) (ISSN 0043-6461) is published twice monthly by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718. Subscription is $12 per year to non-reporters. Periodicals postage paid at Madison, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER, PO Box 8934, Madison, WI 53708.

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